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decisions or criticism of the reasoning of the opinions. Still less should we demand careful consideration of the ways in which the law might be improved. We should welcome the juice as it comes from the press, much as we might prefer to have it exposed to fermentation.

If a law school teacher who goes over the same courses year after year, who gives only six or eight lectures a week, and who enjoys a three months' summer vacation, can as a rule write only from zero to five articles a year, how do busy practitioners write the voluminous law books that appear so persistently? One answer is that the text writers usually content themselves with a temperate catalogue of the results reached by the courts, and energetically refrain from the more difficult and time-consuming work exemplified by the creditable law review article. The well settled matters are set forth abundantly, and striking variations are noted; but the hard points are slurred over, and there is rigorous economy in analysis and criticism.

In spite of such obvious limitations, the commercial law book thrives, and by the box-office test we must assume that it fills a genuine want. Lawyers buy it and courts cite it. But what fun there can be in compiling it is more than I can fathom. And I am always curious to know just how the work is done. I wish the writers would tell us in their prefaces how many of the thousands of cases cited have been really read, how much of the work was done by a stenographer, and how many hours of genuine, puzzled thought were spent in the writing. Authors might lighten the work of reviewers by pointing out the thoughtful sections in bold-faced type in the table of contents. Thus the labor of turning the pages would be lessened. In the works of such men as Dillon, Wigmore, and Piggott, the stamp of an able and active mind is on every page. But the leaves of most law books must be turned for some time before they yield anything more than information.

I have turned a good many of Mr. Nichols' pages, and some of them I have read. The book seems to me a careful and fairly exhaustive compilation. In the spots where I have tested it, not all the references in the footnotes support the statement in the text; but none of them contradict it, and the statements are correct. The classification is excellent. On the whole the book appeals to me as a superior work of its kind. On many matters it will save the inquirer from a wearisome search of the digests. It will be a great help to those in need of orientation before they enter on the special inquiry which their projected brief calls for. I have come across nothing that is misleading or confused. Judged by the only standards which it is fair to apply, Mr. Nichols' performance is highly creditable. But I should not think of turning to him for refreshment, for light on legal methods, for helpful appraisement of the respective merits of competing social policies, or for a number of other things that tempt me to read many law review articles, even when the topics they deal with are not ones in which I have any especial interest.

*Thomas Reed Powell.*

HISTORY OF ECONOMIC LEGISLATION IN IOWA. By IVAN L. POLLOCK. Iowa City, Iowa: STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. 1918. pp. x, 386.

This volume in the Iowa Economic History Series gives a general outline, past and present, of the enacted legislative measures of the State, in such fields as transportation, insurance, banking, conserva-

tion, labor, taxation, and agriculture. Being primarily an historical review, it does not, as Professor Pollock himself explains, attempt to treat exhaustively any one of the topics of legislation discussed. For this very reason, however, the book is of slight use to the student of statute or administrative law. What is needed for the lawyer is not a mere statement of the pious wishes that have found a place on the statute books, but a close analysis of each type of legislation, in order to determine what legislative expedients have achieved satisfactory results in their influence upon the life of the state, and the reasons that determine the varying effectiveness of the different forms of administration used. Further, in order to make such material of use to legislators in sister states, there must be a detailed account of the statute administrative structure and any judicial reshaping of it, together with a survey of the ramifications of the actual administrative practice and devices that have grown up under the law. General principles are of small importance compared with the methods used in their application. Indeed, the distinction between principle and details as made by legislators and political scientists is as faulty as that which the lawyer makes between law and fact, or which the legislative draftsman makes between form and substance, or which authorities upon conflict of laws make between procedure and substance. The book contains copious citations from Iowa statutes and presents a general view of the ideals which the State's legislators have at present succeeded in formulating in the field of economic legislation.

*Frederic P. Lee.*

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND ITS PROBLEMS. By L. OPPENHEIM. London: LONGMANS, GREEN & Co. 1919. pp. xii, 84.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS: TODAY AND TOMORROW. By HORACE MEYER KALLEN. Boston: MARSHALL JONES Co. 1919. pp. xx, 181.

EXPERIMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATION. By FRANCIS B. SAYRE. New York: HARPER & BROTHERS. 1918. pp. 201.

The idea of a League of Nations is not new. As early as 1305, an alliance of all Christian States, with a court of arbitration for settling disputes, was proposed by Pierre Dubois, a French lawyer. Similar projects were advocated by Henry IV. of France, Emeric Crucée, the Abbé de St. Pierre, and William Penn, among others, and the close of the Napoleonic wars witnessed the efforts of Alexander I. of Russia to organize a Confederation of Europe. As a result of the recent world conflict, the League of Nations project has been thrust into the forefront of public discussion and the statesmen at Paris seem about to make it the cornerstone of the peace settlement. But what assurance is there that their efforts will not prove as futile as those of Czar Alexander a century ago?

A discussion of the League of Nations which does not take into account these earlier schemes and the causes of their failure, and which does not point out the existence or absence of new elements, either in the plan itself or in modern conditions, which make the establishment of a League possible today, is obviously incomplete. Yet, in much of the recent literature on the subject, there is a notable lack of historical perspective.

To Mr. Oppenheim's little volume this criticism does not apply. Although the discussion is confined largely to general principles, the author's conclusions impress one as being the result of much study